

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
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Portion of the Kettle Crest Area Closure Lifted

Colville, WA- (September 24, 2015) – Due to decreased fire activity and firefighter traffic in the Kettle Complex Fires, a portion of the large emergency wildfire area closure has been lifted for the Three Rivers and Republic Ranger Districts. Portions of the Kettle Crest area closure north of Highway 20, near developed and undeveloped recreation areas have been lifted effective immediately. The area closure that spanned the entire northern portion of the Kettle Crest from Highway 20 north to the Canadian border has been in place since August 17.

The area north of Highway 20, south of South Boulder Road and west to the Old Stage Trailhead is now open to public access with the exception of the Graves Mountain Fire area and Renner Lake Fire area. South Boulder Road remains closed to public access due to continued fire suppression and rehabilitation activity.

The area surrounding Graves Mountain from Highway 20 north to the Deadman Creek Road and Lane Creek to the east remains closed to public access (see attached maps). Popular areas such as Jungle Hill; Wapaloosie; Davis Lake; Hoodoo Canyon Trailhead; Trout Lake; Alligator Ridge and Copper Butte Trailhead are open to public access.

It is important to note that while the Boulder Creek Road (County Road 602) and Deadman Creek Road (FS Road 956500) remain open, there are areas on either side of these roads that remain closed to public access.

Trails and roads leading into the interior of burned areas will remain closed to public access through the winter to allow time for winter snow to fully extinguish the fires and bring down any additional loose trees damaged by wildfire. Prior to venturing into the woods for hunting or other recreational activities this fall, forest visitors are strongly encouraged to view maps of existing area closures and the roads and trails that lead into them to ensure they are not unknowingly venturing into a closed area. Maps and specific descriptions of the closed areas can be viewed by visiting your local Forest Service office, and online at the Colville National Forest website.

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